

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, ~~said path having a forward direction from the beginning of the path to the end of the path, and a return direction from the end of the path to the beginning of the path,~~ said network including a number of network entities, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the selected subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of ~~one of the forward direction and return direction~~ of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of ~~the selected subset of~~ alarms into a problem description for the service.

2. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a corrective procedure in response to at least one alarm in said ~~for one of the some and all alarms from the groups of the selected subset of alarms.~~

3. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein said grouping further associates each group of alarms with a type of said network entity, where a type of said network entity is one of the network entities carrying the service ~~comprise one or more of the following physical location types: a node, a bay, a quadrant, a slot, a card and a port.~~

4. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping the selected subset of alarms comprises ~~grouping the selected subset of alarms by~~ associating each alarm in the subset of alarms with one of the network entities carrying the service.

5. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping the selected subset of alarms comprises ~~grouping the selected subset of alarms by one or more of the~~ associating at least one alarm in the subset of alarms with at least two of network entities carrying the service.

6. (Currently amended) A method ~~as described in claim 1,~~ for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein the step of transforming each alarm further comprises the step of forming ~~one or more~~ templates ~~a~~ at least one template including text substitution markers.

7. (Original) A method as described in claim 6, wherein the text substitution markers correspond to network entities.

8. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, [6] wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in the forward [a] direction of the path from a beginning of the path to an end of the path.

9. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, [6] wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in the return- [a] direction of the path from an end of the path to a beginning of the path.

10. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein the type of said problem comprises one or more of the following types of problems: triggers at least one of:

a missing channel identification alarm;

an unexpected channel identification alarm;

a loss of signal alarm; and

a channel power out of range alarm.

11. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a verbal description.

12. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 11, wherein the description is an English a text description.

13. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a pictorial description